

M Y A M A Z I N G
H E L L O T H E R W E ! I O A M P
W H E N I W A S O N A



25 July 1273

25 July 1273

In a blink of an eye, 7 months have passed. Maco Polo believes that the time has come to return to Italy. we were given a warm reception before boarding our ship to head back for itlay. I REALLY hope that one day, we would be able to return here again!!!

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I.LOVE.CATHY.

15 March 1273

How wonderful! The people of Cathy have really been good to us!!! Everytime we pass by a shop or walk by a road, MANY people would come up to us and polietly enquire about ITALY!!!! Thereafter, they give a packet of TOP QUALITY ABALONE!!! To, THANK us for sharing with them.

WOW. Cathy is REALLY THE place to be. all the people live in harmony with one an other. The King does an excellent job of governing the country. from what i have heard, the country has been at peace for the last 59 years WITHOUT a single battle fought!!! All the ministers are also chosen based on merit! that is really an interesting and refreshing concept! i MUST suggest this when we get back.

Actually, according to the people, a scholar had recently set up a school to teach people. EDUCATION EMPOWERS is his



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motto. he not only believes that BOYS should be sent to school so as to be taught the CORRECT way of life, growing up to CHALLENGE assumptions and QUESTION traditional practices, **BUT** also young girls! Every 4 years, an "examination" is held and the top 5 scholars are recruited as ministers to aid and give advice to the King on ruling his lands.

Such a perfect idea. i wonder why we never thought of it?

Umm... but i am still not really used to the idea of GIRLS attending classes. After all, i AM a renowned scholar and i do NOT think that that is a bad thing. But, after all, it has been a tradition for the past hundred years...

but i HAVE to say that their social advancement and lack of social injustice is REALLY amiable.

till the next time!!!

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WE REACH CATHY!!!

January 6 1743

i am really soooo sorry. But the journey to Cathy has really been tiring and busy. Marco Polo and I were enjoying an intellectual discussion about how Cathy would look like and if their people were hospitable when suddenly, Briar (the captain of *Oriente Poliano*, the ship we were on) shouted, "Aye aye Mr. Polo, we have sighted land. I think it's Cathy!"

i was shocked beyond words and jumped up off my seat, upsetting the premium rum which Briar served us... Sighs. **THAT WAS PEMIUM RUM!!** I think i rememebered Briar saying that it was worth at least 299 EURO!!! (editors note, one euro is one singapore dollar and fourty cents)

Anyway... WE HAVE FINALLY REACHED CATHY!!!

i shall write more about Cathy the next time as i am due in the Royal Chambers of His Majesty to inform him of our

country and the exchange of gifts. (we got him 5 bottles of PREMIUM RUM!!!) Haha.

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NOVEMBER 5 1272

November 5 1272

I was really very busy helping Marco Polo do some research and a few months have already passed as we crossed over to the other end of the Gobi desert! Despite the many dangers we had encountered during the Gobi crossing, Marco's account suggests that the route was safe and well established during Mongol's reign. After we left the Gobi, we passed the first major city which was Suchow (Dunhuang), in Tangut province, where we stayed for a year. Marco also noted the center of the asbestos industry in Uighuristan, with its capital Karakhoja. He said that the way to clean asbestos cloth was to throw it into a fire, and that a specimen was brought back from Cathay by the Polos and presented to the Pope. It was really very interesting coming to know about all these information I had never come across before! Sigh. Its going to be yet another long and difficult journey!

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MAY 17 1272

May 17 1272

Oh finally! We have reached the Gobi Desert after such a long and exhausting time! This is the place where Marco Polo really left us the feeling of awe for the vastness of desert! According to all the research I made, this desert was reported to be so long and big that it would take up to a year to go from end to end and it even takes about a month to cross the narrowest point! It is made up of entirely sands, mountains and valleys! But unfortunately,

over here, there is nothing to eat at all! Can you imagine how tortorous it would be to be living in such a desert with no food supplies and necessary items like what I have? *However, we have not encountered any dangers yet and i really do hope that there would not be any while crossing the desert! I just cannot seem wait to cross the Gobi desert and get on with this amazing journey!*

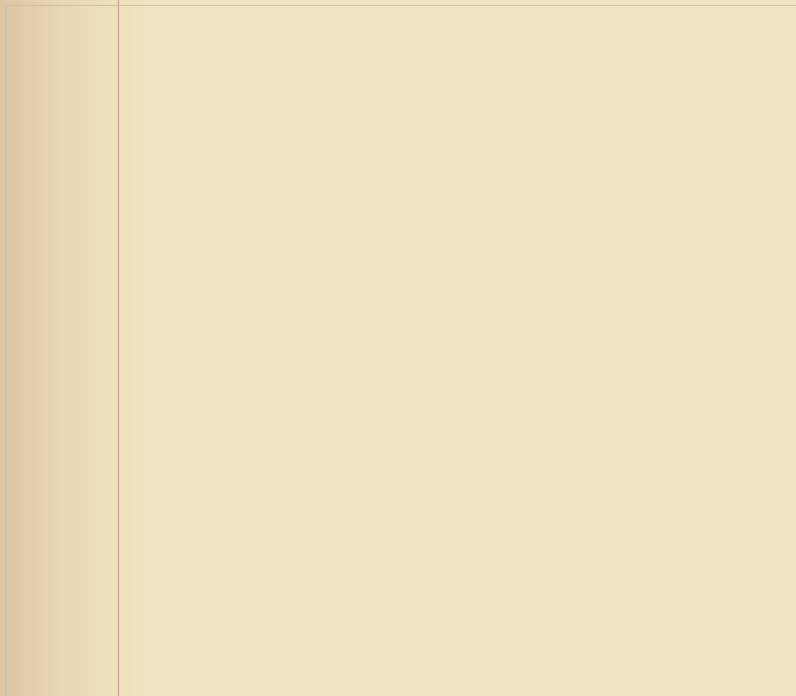
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MARCH 31 1272

March 31 1272

When we arrived the Taklamakan desert (or Taim Basin), we skirted around the desert on the southern route, passing through Yarkand, Khotan, Cherchen, and Lop-Nor. Marco's keen eye picked out the most notable peculiarities of each. At Yarkand, he described that the locals were extremely prone to goiter, which Marco blamed on the local drinking water. In the rivers of Pem province were found "stones called jasper and chalcedony in plenty" - a reference to jade.



YARKAND (PUBLISHER'S NOTE: The Yarkand, which is 600 miles (970 km) long, rises in the Karakoram Pass of the **Karakoram Range** in the Pakistani-administered portion of the **Kashmir** region. In its upper course it forms a small

part of the border between Kashmir and Xinjiang as it cuts a deeply incised valley.)



KHOTAN (PUBLISHER'S NOTE: The **Kingdom of Khotan** is an ancient **Buddhist** kingdom that was located on the branch of the **Silk Road** that ran along the southern edge of the **Taklamakan Desert** in the **Tarim basin**. (The area lies in present day **Xinjiang, China**).



CHERCHEN (PUBLISHER'S NOTE: The Cherchen is a desert meander.)



LOP-NOR (PUBLISHER'S NOTE: The Lop Nor is a famous monument in Vietnam.)

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FEBRUARY 1 1272

January 31 1271

The medicine really helps! We have been real tied up these days. So far on our journey, we have already travelled 1/10 of the journey to Cathay. We have already passed the Caspian Sea.



Caspian Sea

We also saw some black substances on the surface of the water(PUBLISHERS NOTE: this was later known as oil) The view was breathtaking and i am glad i choose to accompany Marco Polo on this trip! Marco Polo also took out some vintage rum for us to enjoy and we ended up singing and dancing. It was really fun!

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JANUARY 6 1272

January 6 1272

I just met Marco Polo yesterday at the famous restaurant, *Oriente Poliano* ! He is such a nice and understanding man! When i explained to him about my sickness, he not only assured me that i would be fine but also sent his servants to the local dipensary to get some chinese medicine to aid in treating my sickness! Now, i am relieved that i would be travelling with such a kind hearted person!

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DECEMBER 16 1271

December 16 1271

Its been an extremely busy week for me. I've been asking around about Marco Polo as I'm afraid he might be stern. On top of that, I have been busy packing a few pieces of clothing and packing together some dried provisions and vegetables. I sure hope that these vegetables provide me with enough vitamins to prevent me from getting scurvy! I shall be meeting Marco Polo on the 5 of January and we are setting off for Cathay on the Sealetter Cruise Ship. Will continue finding out about him.

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DECEMBER 6 1271

December 6 1271

Sigh. i have just received notice that i have to accompany some GUY called Marco Polo for a journey to Cathay. I rather spend my time indulging in my favourite past time, studying, than going on some weird journey. Don't they know i have this psychological barrier which prevents me from going on any moving objects!!! I hope this Marco Polo person treats me well and understands the plight of my sickness. Till then, wish me good luck!

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